RNA FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

RIVERVIEW Neighborhood Association

OCTOBER 1988 232 Ogden Avenue – Jersey City, N.J. 07307 – (201) 798-0493

RNA IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH ANY POLITICAL PARTY, ORGANIZATION OR ELECTED OFFICIAL.

RAVINE ROAD/TOXIC DUMP

On Thursday, September 22, the long-awaited "attack" on the dump site at Ravine Road was launched! After many years of "paper warfare" with, between and among city, county and state officials, the assault that started at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday left little doubt that finally they mean business! No more paper tigers!

Officials were out in mass: Dave Oster, Environmental Specialists from DEP, John McDonald from city engineering/hazardous material, Tom Killeen, Incinerator Authority, Tom Harrison, Environment Inspector, Jersey City Police and our own committee people, Anne Hart and Dean Howell.

In addition there were trucks and dumpsters and and dozers and front-end loaders and at both ends barricades. There were hands waving, fingers pointing, voices yelling, motors revving, metal crunching, limbs braking, earth trembling, bodies huddling and minds merging. Already the notorious site was surrendering!

By quit-time, 9 trucks had removed as many full-bellied dumpsters of non-toxic solid waste, and the dozers had cut pathways through the masses of toxic drums separating them from safer heaps lying hidden in the deep grass. Gone were the dozen or more crushed barrels that had laid, lime dusted and neutralized along the road's wide curve...now designated as the dump's major point of intersection with toxic waste. By day's end, one could stand at the end of Ogden on the rock cliffs of the Palisades, overlooking Hoboken's west end , and sense what had happened; it was a good feeling.

On the off days, John McDonald kept watch.

Come Monday morning, the dozers cranked up and dust was flying; it was back in the thick of things like the mid-day of Friday. By 9:30 a.m. two trucks had gone and two dumpsters were waiting. Pathways had become roadways and walkie-talkies had replaced the yelling and arm waving; dozers were straining and dumpsters were belching; the force was awesome! Cables broke and hydraulics failed, and tires went flat; noxious odors filled the air and threatening clods of yellow-green chemicals lay crushed in dozer trucks, making a pattern otherwise beautiful.

By 10:30 a.m., all shut down; no noise, no dust; no power; a time for thinking and caution. Harrison gives the word, those barrels have to be tested one by one; those back there lined-up and standing are full; the rest can be loaded as we go steady into it! Oster says "don't touch the ones under the tree-house; this is going to take awhile..."

Back on the Palisade Cliff at the end of Ogden, and looking down this Monday night, one can see the tedious work yet to be done in the dump beyond the curve.

Yes, it's going to take a while, but the assault in our own backyard has literally begun, and in the end, we can all stand there on the cliff looking down, feeling good, feeling proud to have been here at a time when such a cleanup was made possible...looking forward to the day when such an ordeal is no longer relevant any place...

Dean Howell

MOUNTAIN ROAD-A HOT ISSUE - AGAIN

At the September general meeting, our members were given a preview of a proposal for the rehabilitation of Mountain Road. The proposal called for Mountain Road to be turned into a picnic area and walk through park, complete with fake rock and a waterfall. The road bed would be cobblestoned and the entire area would be fenced obstructing any view of the eastern skyline from the lower portion of the road. After the presentation by Mr. Gerry Free, the membership discussed the proposal and once again,voted to support opening Mountain Road and Holland Street. Our position was presented to Councilman Tom Hart and given before an open meeting attended by the chairmen of various neighborhood associations in the Heights. The following is the RNA position on the subject of Mountain Road and Holland Street.

"The Riverview Neighborhood Association's position has been and still is that Mountain Road be repaired as a cobble-stoned road; that sidewalks, fencing and lighting be renovated; vegetation be trimmed and where necessary, restrained and that traffic (cars only) be allowed to use the road in an easterly direction.

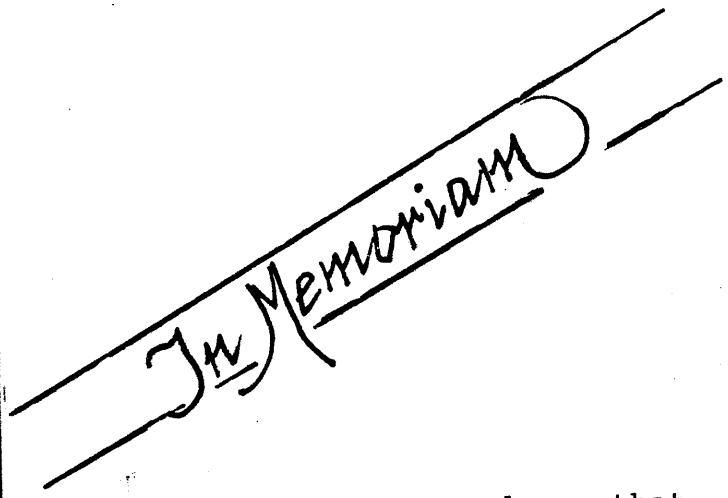
Further, we would like to see the triangular pieces of land at the halfway point and the southern most end of the road, placed on open space rolls and preserved as parkland - parkland that is sorely needed, especially in Ward C where the major portion of Mountain Road is located. These parcels of land are currently owned by the City.

While a decorative park and waterfall may be pleasing to the eye, we fail to see the logic of covering our most natural phenomenon, the "PALISADES", with a look-alike rock. The City would be better off spending the millions of dollars that "fake" rock would cost by opening Mountain Road and its equally historic counterpart, Holland Street, and maintaining them for safe and proper use - in other words, regular police patrols and sanitation maintenance.

The Regional Plan Association and Trust for Public Land will soon publish a Palisades Conservation Plan and we advocate that the City take this plan into account in any future planning for any area on th Palisades. We should view the Palisades as a regional natural resource not as a Jersey City entity.

The Riverview Neighborhood Association supports restoring both Mountain Road and Holland Street to their original cobble-stoned beauty and making them available to the entire city as a vehicular thoroughfare."

Maria Tuzzo



It is with deep sadness that we report the death of Mrs. Theresa Mastro, wife of John Mastro , R.N.A. member. ON behalf of the entire R.N.A. membership we express our profound sympathy to John and his children, at this time of sorrow in their lives.

MEETING MINUTES

It was an enthusiastic group of RNA members who joined us at the September meeting. Summer is over and the members are ready to take up the cause of issues close to their hearts and neighborhood. The agenda was supposed to be rather casual for the first meeting after the long, hot summer but two surprise guests were announced at the start of the meeting.

The first guest was Councilman Tom Hart who said a word of two pertaining to current happenings and then introduced Mr. Gerry Free. Mr. Free represents a company that works on beautification of years that are blighted by neglect or erosion or that have been vandalized. His company also does work for many new building sites, i.e., hotels, zoos, playgrounds, etc. The material that is used in these areas is called gunite and is fashioned to look like rock. Mr. Free was at our meeting to present a proposal for a possible plan to rehabilitate Mountain Road and to use the triangular portion at the southern end of the lower slope as a picnic area. The proposal called for the relaying of the cobblestone road, the construction of "rock" walls and the implementation of concrete tables and chairs in the designated picnic area. The plan also called for a waterfall to be built where the 'hundred' steps used to be. Fencing, sidewalks and lighting were also included in the proposal. Needless to say, our membership was astounded.

For more than three years RNA has been after the City to fix up, clean and open Mountain Road, and its 'sister' road Holland Street, to traffic but we have met with little success. In fact, the money that had been allocated for refurbishing Mountain Road was recently transferred to the Ravine Road rehabilitation project, since it is supposedly an easier project to institute and complete.

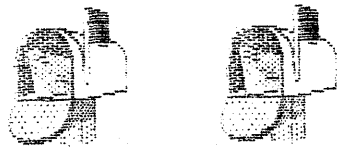
We listened to Mr. Free's presentation and asked questions with regard to his proposal and after he left the members continued the discussion and voted, once again, to support opening both Mountain Road and Holland Street, restored to their original beauty. We vowed to present our position to the council or their representative at the open meeting to be held on September 14th at the Community Center (see article on page)

Other business brought before the members were updates on the tax reval and the filing for hearings, a project to plant bulbs in Riverview Park so that next Spring we will have flowers growing, the design for fencing to be placed in the gazebo, the garage on Griffith Street, etc. As usual, we enjoyed refreshments provided by our members and after the winner of the monthly 50/50 raffle was announced, the meeting was adjourned.

Many thanks to Dr.Juan Perez, an RNA member, who was kind enough to give free blood pressure readings before the start of the meeting.

As the Winter comes upon us, we look forward to working on many projects that will benefit our neighborhood. Please join us in our efforts on behalf of the Riverview Neighborhood and its residents. We look forward to meeting you at our next meeting Tuesday, October 11, 7:30 p.m. at the Harborview Health Care Center.

Maria Tuzzo, Secretary



Letter written to Jerry Free by Councilman Tom Hart

"Thank you for your interest in our Mountain Road. Thank you also for your cooperation in meeting with the leaders and members of the Riverview Neighborhood Association and with our Heights Community Leaders at our Community Center.

As you might be aware, we have been involved with the Mountain Road issue for a long time. This historic little piece of our geography has tremendous meaning and importance for us. So it is that we are being exceptionally prudent in our decision making processes regarding its future.

While most found your concept of synthetic rock an innovative and interesting idea, we also believe that the strongest feature of the Mountain Road area is the very real rock upon which and within which it is located -- the Palisades. Additionally, it is not possible for us, at this time, to separate the Mountain Road area from the overall concept of Palisades Preservation and Restoration.

So, we close with gratitude for your meeting with us and with the message that we shall maintain your proposals along with all of the others. However, we must also indicate our very strong resolve to maintain and preserve the natural aspect of the area and to restore it to its original state, as much as we can.

Thanks again. Best wishes that all else is going well.

Tom

THIRD ANNUAL FOOD DRIVE

It is never too early to be concerned with the plight of people less fortunate than ourselves. While we are made more aware of the needy at certain holidays of the year, there are always people who can use assistance of one kind of another.

The Salvation Army is there for those in need twelve months of the year and as an organization concerned with our community at large, we are committed to helping the Salvation Army help others.

You are urged to bring your non-perishable food contribution to the October 11th meeting so that we may present our gifts as early as possible to the Army for distribution. If you wish you may make a cash contribution and an RNA member will shop for you. Please help us and the Salvation Army in their efforts on behalf of families in our City who are in desperate need.

Maria Tuzzo, Chairwoman

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Editor: Kathy Brennan
Graphics: Raquel Sweeney
Writers: Carin Lewis, Dee Ipsaro, Alice Soto, Maria Tuzzo
Columns: Ted Conrad, Dean Howell, Randy Sanford, Vito Brunetti, Bob Lewis
Mailing: Jack Rea, Debbie Torres, Michele Pierson

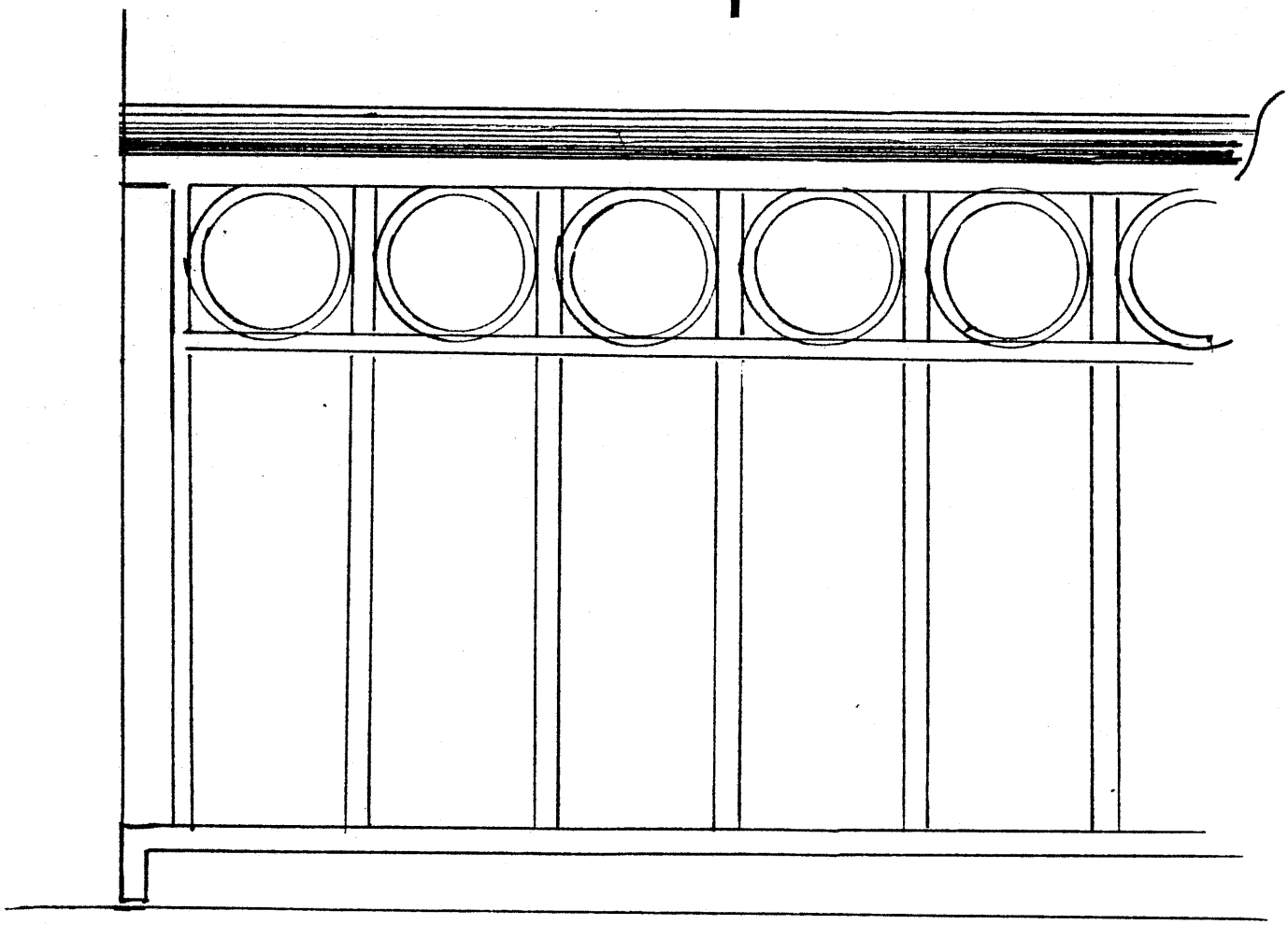
GAZEBO RENOVATION

As you've probably noticed, the brick walls in the Gazebo have been removed and the masonry work completed, rendering it ready for the installation of new wrought iron railings. The committee representing Friends of Riverview Park has approved the design for the railing, developed and drawn by residents, Randy Sanford, Camille Cesarie, Ted Conrad and Dean Howell. This drawing (generalized below) along with its specifications for installation is now out for bids. In the immediate future, a contractor will be selected by the committee, and Joan Earls, Director of Leisure Activities. Installation by contractual agreement will be within two weeks after signing.

We on the committee feel the new design provides it all: safety, beauty, practical visibility through the Gazebo, long-term durability, and compatibility with the long-range "Park Plan" objectives established by the committee late last summer.

Our thanks to Joan Earls and the Department of Public Works for this timely effort and cooperation.

Dean Howell



On August 11, 1988 Trinity Baptist Church on Bowers Street celebrated it's 100th year of serving the spiritual needs of our community. The following is an excerpt from the church's history. We present it here because the houses of worship in the Heights are an important ingredient in what makes us who we are, and because it gives us a glimpse into the past and how things used to be.

TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH

During the month of March 1885, a number of informal meetings were held in favor of organizing a new church and, after due deliberation, it was deemed the wisest and most prudent to organize as the Summit Ave. Baptist Church Mission, the location to be 13 Lincoln St., Jersey City.

The Mission opened on April 12, 1885, with a song and praise meeting. To their surprise and pleasure they had over sixty people present. The motto of the Mission was, "Welcome to our Mission." Thus they began their "labor as a Mission Band, to the glory of God's name."

Several of the members of the Mission met on July 20, 1888 to consider the needs of the Mission. After considerable deliberation, it was decided to call a meeting for the purpose of organizing a new church. In pursuance of the above object they decided to ask the advice of the Pastor and Deacons of the Summit Ave. Baptist Church. They received from them their most hearty approval and an urging to commence the work without delay.

The minutes of the meeting held on August 11, 1888, show the meeting opened with prayer, and sixteen members were present. A joint Letter of Dismission from the Summit Ave. Baptist Church was presented listing 23 names. They voted unanimously to organize as an independent church. On motion it was resolved that the name of the new church be called the Trinity Baptist Church of Jersey City, New Jersey. The Declaration of Faith and Church Covenant, as written by J. Newton Brown, DD., was adopted.

Regular services of the new church continued to be held on Sunday and Wednesday evenings until October, when it was decided to begin Sunday morning services. They then moved to rented quarters in the German Pilgrim Church on Lincoln Street. They remained there until April, 1890, when the congregation, having grown considerably, moved into their new "Chapel" on the current site of the church. The congregation continued to grow under Pastor Johnson and finally, needing even more room, the members voted to expand the existing building to the present facility. On April 27, 1902, in a series of special services that lasted through May 2nd, the new sanctuary was officially dedicated with Pastors from many other area churches participating.

In April, 1911, the church, under the state statutes in effect, voted to become an incorporated church, and the proper papers were filed with the Court of Common Pleas of Hudson County, State of New Jersey, and a Church seal was procured.

During the summer of 1914, from June 21 to September 13, a lot on the corner of South Street and Hancock Avenue was the site on which a large tent was erected for the purposes of holding "un-denominational" evangelistic services. Many of the large New York churches and other churches from our area loaned their Pastors and lay people to the meetings. One lay leader of note was Will H. Houghton. He was licensed to preach by Trinity, and, although he was used mainly as the song leader, he did preach and later went on to become famous as Dr. W. H. Houghton, evangelist and second President of the Moody Bible Institute, Chicago.

The old record books have yielded some other surprising information, such as:

In May, 1890, the Morning Worship Service was changed to 10:45 am, the time still observed.

In October, 1894, the annual Thanksgiving letter was begun. It contained an offering request to help defray the costs of paving Bowers Street.

In April, 1899, the first representative to the Baptist Home for the Aged in Newark, New Jersey was appointed.

On April 28, 1900, the church petitioned the Police Department for increased protection and patrols due to vandalism.

In 1902, William A. Kloepper, licensed to preach by Trinity, became Pastor of Baptist Temple, Brooklyn, New York.

In January, 1907, the church appropriated $1.00 a week for a missionary to work 2 days a week for the Sunday School.

On February 29, 1908, Rev. Johnson was thanked by the church for his donation of the organ and window behind the pulpit.

On January 25, 1910, the Communion Service was established on the first Sunday of every month.

In May, 1916, the congregation voted to lay a cement sidewalk in front of the church.

In April, 1918, contracts were signed to purchase the adjacent house at 165 Bowers Street for use as a parsonage for $7,000.00.

In 1929, a regular radio program was broadcast from the church, and a sister church was begun as a missionary project in Secaucus.

From the mid 1920's to the mid '50's, Mrs. Pauline Staiger, one of the charter members of the church, conducted a Sunday afternoon Bible study for the neighborhood children in Leonard Gordon Park. Age caused her to cease this practice and she passed into Glory in January, 1961, at the age of 96.

At the close of the Watchnight Service, December 31, 1944 - January 1, 1945, the parsonage mortgage was burned. Brother Willis Schaible held the same plate that was used to burn the mortgage on the chapel in 1897 and Mrs. Staiger lit the match and ignited the flame.

October, 1945, the "Acousticon" hearing aid system was installed.

At the Watchnight Service, December 31, 1945 - January 1, 1946, the mortgage of the church was burned in the exact same way as the parsonage mortgage 1 year previously.

During 1945, the following were initiated: regular Door-to-Door visitation on Sunday afternoons, Friday afternoon "Happy Hour" for children and the Trinity Orchestra became a regular feature the fourth Sunday of each month.

In 1947, the present Hammond organ was purchased.

Also in 1947, the present wire fence was erected in front of the church.

In 1949, Trinity saw the ordination of one of our own to the Gospel ministry, Dave Krehbiel.

During the Watchnight program, December 31, 1950, a television program was incorporated into the celebration from 9:30 to 11:00 pm.

In 1952, new baptismal robes were bought to replace the ones first used in 1926. Also, Articles of Faith were added to the revised constitution.

In 1958, Fellowship Hall was enlarged and renovated.

In 1966, Trinity joined in fellowship with the Conservative Baptist Association of America and the Conservative Baptist Association of New Jersey.

The 1970's saw many improvements to the church and parsonage including new roof's on both. Full insulation in the walls and ceiling of the church, and aluminum siding on the exterior were installed along with a new kitchen in the parsonage.

In the early '80's, ceiling fans were installed to cool us in the summer and warm us in the winter, and we are currently in the midst of another cycle of painting and repairing of the church and parsonage.

In 1986-87 we had English language classes for the Hindu Indian immigrants in our community, and we started a Door-to-Door outreach to the Spanish community in our midst.

August, 1988 has seen the use of a Mobile Health Unit on Central Ave. for free blood pressure screenings.

Trinity Baptist is a small congregation, but one that loves the Lord and our fellow man. Whether you are currently attending another church or not, you will always find a warm greeting and friendly people. The church phone number is 792-5350. If you desire more information feel free to call Rev. Claus Hinden, or contact Carin or Bob Lewis.

CONRAD'S CORNER

The Mostly Mozart Summer Concerts in very Fisher Hall conducted by Gerhard Schwarz are superb. A Russian pianist and soprano Fredericke Van Staden gave a flawless performance. Just closing one's eyes and listening to the classical music reminded me of the story about Mozart as a child prodigy playing for Marie Antoinette and slipping off the piano stool, she picked him up and said, When I grow up I'm going to marry you."

Beside the music I began to visualize the beauty of classical architecture and remembered climbing around the interior of Versailles; how Mozart must have sounded in such magnificently detailed rooms.

I stopped day dreaming with a change in tempo of the music and found myself staring at the ugly blank plywood background of the state in Avery Fisher Hall and began to think how awfully dull modern architecture is. It almost spoils the music.

Now if we have a Mostly Mozart Concert in our cleaned up Loew's, New Yorkers would come over in droves to hear it in an interior right in style with Mozart. Governor Kean's proposed cultural center in Newark is just going to be another dull turkey like Lincoln Center. All the king's horses and all the king's men will never be able to put a classical theatre together again like our Loew's.

While we have been negotiating a settlement with Hartz on the Loew's for a state preservation grant to help pay for the $4 million cleanup and restoration of the theatre, we now read about Vo-Tech ready to gloat a $6 million bond for a cultural center to be built at the drop of a hat in a North Hudson facility near the Bergen County border. Just taking over the Loew's in Jersey City would save over $2 million.

Theodore Conrad

HARVEST PARTY

RNA is making plans for a party to be given at the Harborview Health Care Center. This party is for the residents of the facility. We need volunteers to act as hosts and hostesses for the occasion. We also need baked goods, especially items for salt-free and sugar-free diets. All baked goods are welcomed.

The tentative date of Friday, November 18th at 1 p.m. has been set, but this is subject to change, depending on the volunteer's response.

In the past, our parties for the folks at Harborview have been very successful thanks to our generous neighbors. Please help if you can. For further information, call Maria at 659-2245 after 5 p.m. or come to the next meeting on October 11th at Harborview. We want this party to be as much fun as in previous years, so please contribute your time, efforts or talent.

ARTIST ON DISPLAY

Valerie Kremer, an RNA member, will exhibit her paintings from October 5 through October 29 at the

INDIVIDUALS GALLERY
109 West 17th Street
New York, New York
212 691-1225

The press release reads as follows: "Valerie Kremer/Paintings -- a singular vision of the human face, form and figure. Ms. Kremer is conscious of the internal "spiritual relationships between elements in each painting" but she also pursues a more macro-scopic view of humanity, focusing on the relationship between the genders and using other cultures and other period in history as tableaux.

Ms. Kremer's work has been exhibited in New York at the Parsons School of Design, in Paris at Ecole de Beaux-Arts and elsewhere. The is represented in private collections in the U.S.A and Europe.

"Mary Standing in Studio"

W	L	G	R
S	E	H	C
I	O	K	A
T	B	N	G

MAKE UP AT LEAST TEN WORDS ABOUT BIRDS.

B.

MAKE UP AT LEAST TEN WORDS ABOUT EATING.

B	P	I	F
N	O	C	U
S	W	R	D
A	E	H	T

C.

HOW MANY WORDS CAN YOU FORM ABOUT FARM ANIMALS? MAKE UP AT LEAST FIFTEEN.

E	F	R	O
C	O	G	A
D	T	W	S
H	X	N	L

A. WREN, NEST, WING, EGG, EAGLE, SWAN, CAGE, CRANE, CROW, BEAK, HAWK, OWL

B. DINE DISH, FISH, PIE, ATE, BREAD, BUN, CHEW, SOUP, PEAS, CUP, TEA, BONE, BITE, SUP

C. GOAT, OX, HENS, HOG, COLT, FROG, HORSE, OWL, DOG, COW, GOOSE

OUR NOVEMBER MEETING WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1988. RNA WILL HAVE AN ENERGY WORKSHOP PROVIDED BY THE DEPT. OF HUMAN RESOURCES AND PUBLIC SERVICE. YOU MUST REGISTER BEFORE THE MEETING BY FILLING OUT THE FORM BELOW AND SENDING IT TO: GARY DE FILIPPO, 201 CORNELISON AVENUE, JERSEY CITY, N.J., 07304; or by PHONE AT 547-5855/5892/6945.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES
ENERGY CONSERVATION

Mayor
Anthony R. Cucci

Eugene McKnight, Executive Director

Gary De Filippo, Energy Coordinator
201 Cornelison Avenue
Jersey City, N.J. 07304

Dear Tenant or Homeowner:

I am pleased to announce that the Energy Conservation Program of Jersey City will conduct a Public Service "E-Team" workshop in your area:

PLACE: Harbor View Health Care Facility,175 Ogden Avenue
DATE: Wednesday, November 9, 1988
TIME: 7:00 P.M. Sharp

This program is being offered to both tenants and homeowners. The only requirement is that you are a Public Service customer.

If you have already participated, please do not register again. This program is only open to 1st time applicants.

All participants will receive absolutely free the following:

1. $200 worth of weatherization work (window chaulking, weatherstripping, pipe insulation, etc.)
2. Free Blanket- To be delivered once seal- up work is completed
3. Weatherization Kit- (chaulikng, plastic storm windows, thermometer and other fine gifts)
4. Refreshments will be served

Pre-registration is required,so please call and give your Public Service account number.

Energy Conservation 547-5855/5892/6945 or:

Detach the bottom portion of this page and return it to my office.

I hope to hear from you soon,

Gary De Filippo
Energy Coordinator

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Detach Here

NAME: ADDRESS:

PHONE #: PUBLIC SERVICE ACCOUNT #:

"THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND ENERGY"

FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

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RIVERVIEW Neighborhood Association

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Theodore Conrad
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